

District Courts

District Court of Brockton

215 Main Street

508-587-8000

Jurisdiction: Abington, Bridgewater,
Brockton, East Bridgewater,
West Bridgewater and Whitman

District Court of Hingham

George Washington Blvd.

781-749-7000

Jurisdiction: Hanover, Hingham, Hull,
Norwell, Rockland and Scituate

District Court of Plymouth

Russell Street

508-747-0500

Jurisdiction: Duxbury, Halifax,
Hanson, Kingston, Marshfield,
Pembroke, Plymouth and Plympton.

District Court of Wareham

Rt. 28, Wareham

508-295-8300

Jurisdiction: Carver, Lakeville,
Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleboro,
Rochester and Marion

Juvenile Diversion Program



Office of Plymouth County
District Attorney

Timothy J. Cruz

32 Belmont Street
P.O. Box 1665
Brockton, MA 02303
Phone: 508-584-8120
Fax: 508-586-3578
www.mass.gov/da/plymouth

Juvenile Diversion Program



Timothy J. Cruz

**District Attorney
Plymouth County**

**Tel: 508-584-8120
Fax: 508-586-3578**

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In today's society, our juveniles face many difficulties and pressures associated with growing up. Some juveniles find themselves in court due to minor errors in judgment.

I feel that these juveniles deserve a chance to learn a valuable lesson from their mistake. They need to pay their fair debt to the victim or the public, and earn a chance to be spared a criminal record. That is why this program is so important.

The Juvenile Diversion program was created and implemented by former District Attorney William C. O'Malley. It was designed to provide a second chance to deserving juvenile offenders.

Since the program's inception, it has been shown that the overwhelming majority of the juveniles that have successfully completed the program have learned valuable lessons of personal and community responsibility. They never again had any problems with the law.

My office shall continue our commitment to help these juveniles who have made mistakes, and to prosecute those who present a danger to society.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Cruz".

TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOR PARTICIPANTS AND PARENTS:

Q: What is the Juvenile Diversion Program?

A: The District Attorney has the power to prosecute or not prosecute offenses. In appropriate circumstances this power is used to take eligible juveniles out of Court and divert them to a program of community service and to make restitution to persons injured as a result of the juvenile's offense.

Q: How Does the Juvenile Diversion Program Work?

A: The parent and juvenile meet with the Juvenile Diversion Officer to design a Diversion Plan that will best address the juvenile's needs, the victim's needs and the community's needs. This might involve counseling, community service work, or restitution. The juvenile must sign a contract that specifically outlines his or her obligations. Once the juvenile has satisfactorily completed the Diversion Plan, the case is nolle prossed (ended) in Court. Once this process is completed, the juvenile's record remains clear and his/her obligation to the court and this office is ended.

Q: Who is eligible to participate in this Program?

A: To be eligible for the program, the juvenile must meet the following criteria:

- 1. The juvenile must have no prior record**
- 2. The crime must be a non-violent offense**
- 3. The juvenile must illustrate a willingness to attempt a positive change**

Q: What happens if the juvenile gets into more court trouble while in the program?

A: The program is terminated, and the complaint that is pending the completion of the diversion contract will be re-issued, and the juvenile would be held accountable for the pending complaint as well as the new offense.

Q: What does the program entail?

A: The diversion officer assigns a community service site, and assigns a number of hours to the juvenile, where the juvenile would "work off" his/her minor offense. The juvenile is still responsible to pay any restitution owed to the victim of the offense. The purpose of the community service hours is to hold the juvenile accountable for their offense outside the courtroom.

Plymouth County District Attorney
Timothy J. Cruz

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